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WALT DISNEY'S

DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

Another year has come and gone and it's time to gear up for the new year. Making New Year's resolutions is a time-honored tradition in this country and one's inability to keep those resolutions has been the subject of much humor throughout the years. So it seems only fitting that our Carl Barks reprint this issue centers around Donald and his problems keeping *his* resolutions. As always, we can see that Barks' humor truly transcends the ages, making this story as readable and poignant today as it was when it originally appeared, almost sixty years ago.

This issue's lead story is a modern take on New Year's Day, featuring Uncle Scrooge. When we first announced in these pages that Donald Duck and Friends would begin reprinting vintage stories by Barks and others, some worried that the new material would be stifled. As you can see, such is not the case and we are working each issue to try to present a good mix of both old and new material.

Our "friend" this issue is, as is typical, Mickey Mouse in another modern tale which does not deal with the New Year but does have a winter setting. It also deals with peoples' resolve to follow a preconceived path and how those predispositions can change, so there is a connection with New Year's resolutions after all.

Let me remind everyone that even though the Holidays are over, there's still time to get in on a little retro yule-tide cheer with our special publications, *Christmas Parade* 2 and *Mickey's Twice Upon a Christmas.* They should still be on sale where you bought this comic. If not, ask your store owner to order them for you.

Until next month, good luck with your resolutions. I trust 2005 will be a good year for you.

—John Clark

nomscans-HaCsA

• IN THIS ISSUE •

Donald Duck **GONG OF THE YEAR**	**Story:** Gorm Transgaard **Art:** Vicar **Color:** Egmont & Scott Rockwell **Lettering:** Willie Schubert
Mickey Mouse **GO FIGURE!**	**Story:** Sarah Kinney **Art:** Rodriques **Color:** Egmont & Marie Javins **Lettering:** Susie Lee
Donald Duck **DONALD TAMES HIS TEMPER**	**Story & Art:** Carl Barks (*WDC&S 64*, January 1946) **Color:** Susan Daigle-Leach

Front cover art by Daniel Branca, color by Sue Kolberg

NEXT ISSUE SHIPS WEEK OF JANUARY 12TH
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Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK AND FRIENDS

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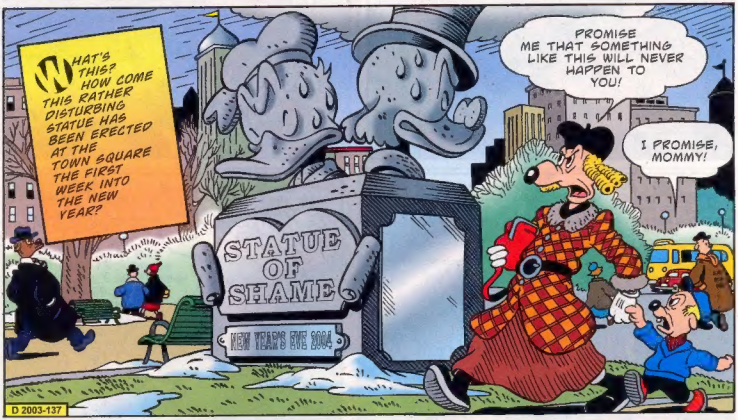
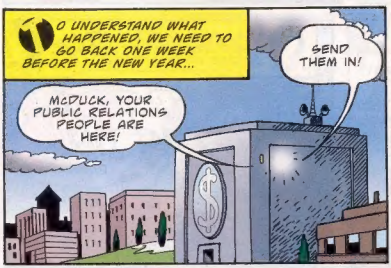
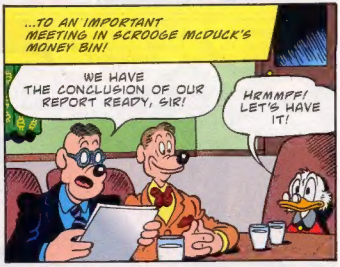
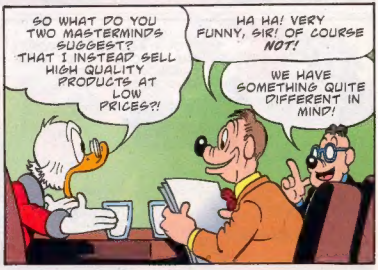
Walt Disney's Donald Duck in GONG of the YEAR

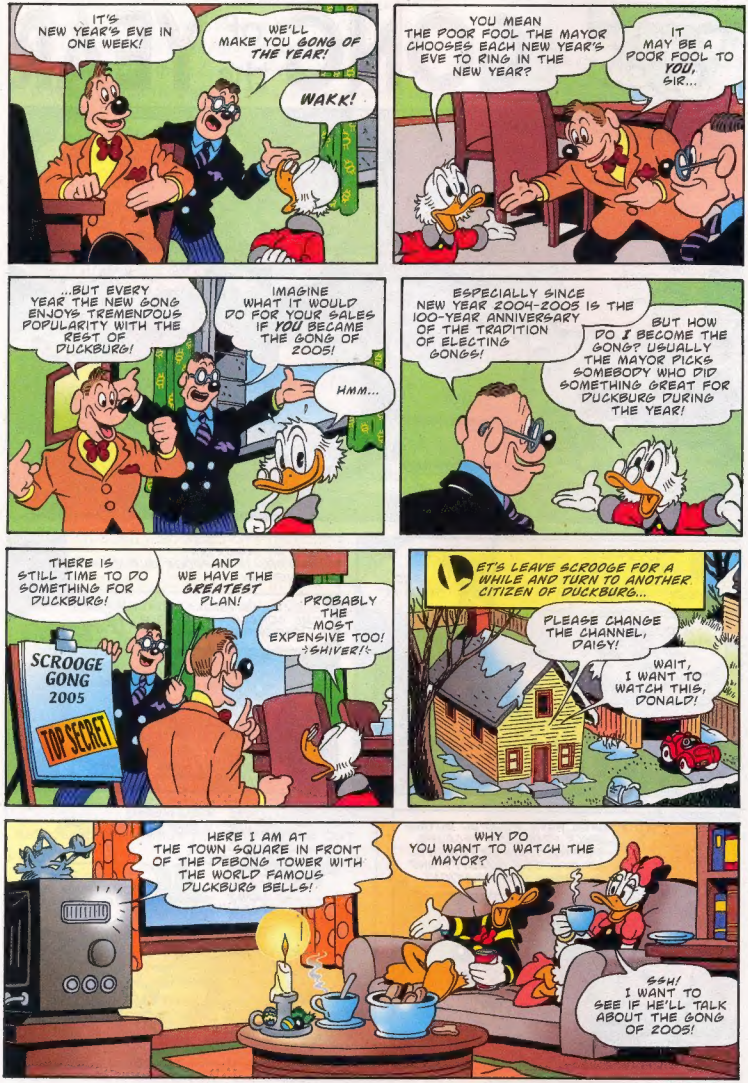

WHAT'S THIS? HOW COME THIS RATHER DISTURBING STATUE HAS BEEN ERECTED AT THE TOWN SQUARE THE FIRST WEEK INTO THE NEW YEAR?
STATUE OF SHAME
NEW YEAR'S EVE 2004
PROMISE ME THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS WILL NEVER HAPPEN TO YOU!
I PROMISE, MOMMY!
D 2003-137

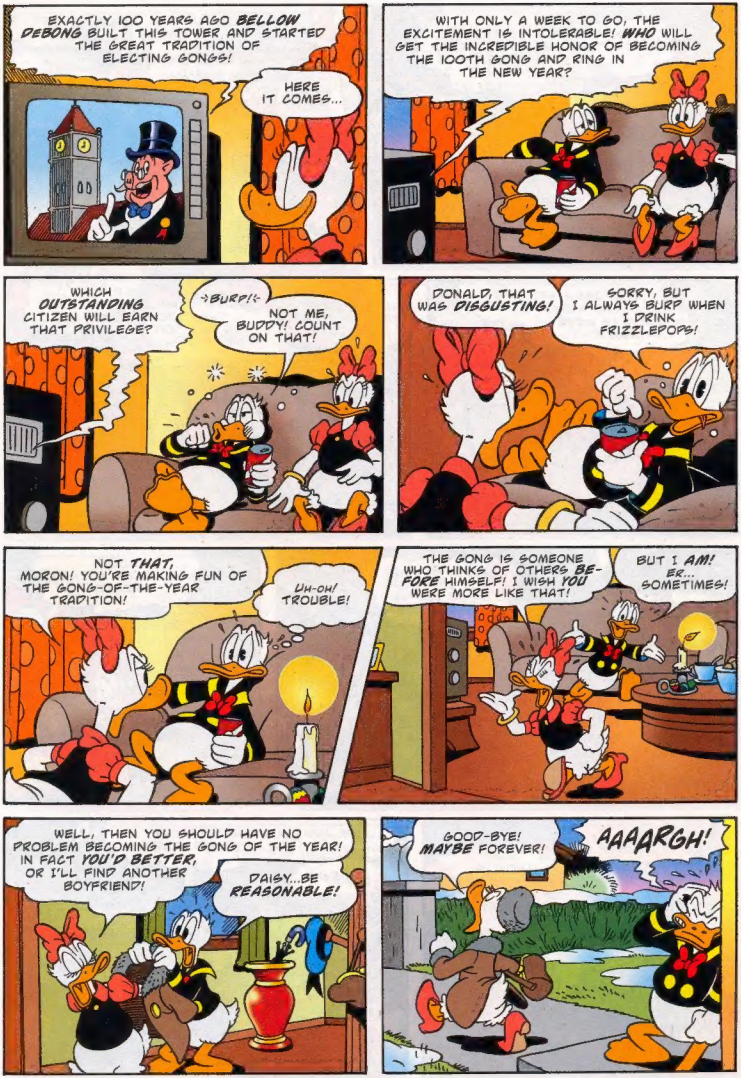

TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED, WE NEED TO GO BACK ONE WEEK BEFORE THE NEW YEAR...
SEND THEM IN!
McDUCK, YOUR PUBLIC RELATIONS PEOPLE ARE HERE!



IN A NUTSHELL...
...PEOPLE HAVE STOPPED BUYING McDUCK PRODUCTS BECAUSE THEY FIND THEM EXPENSIVE, BEING OF POOR QUALITY AND LACKING IMAGINATION!

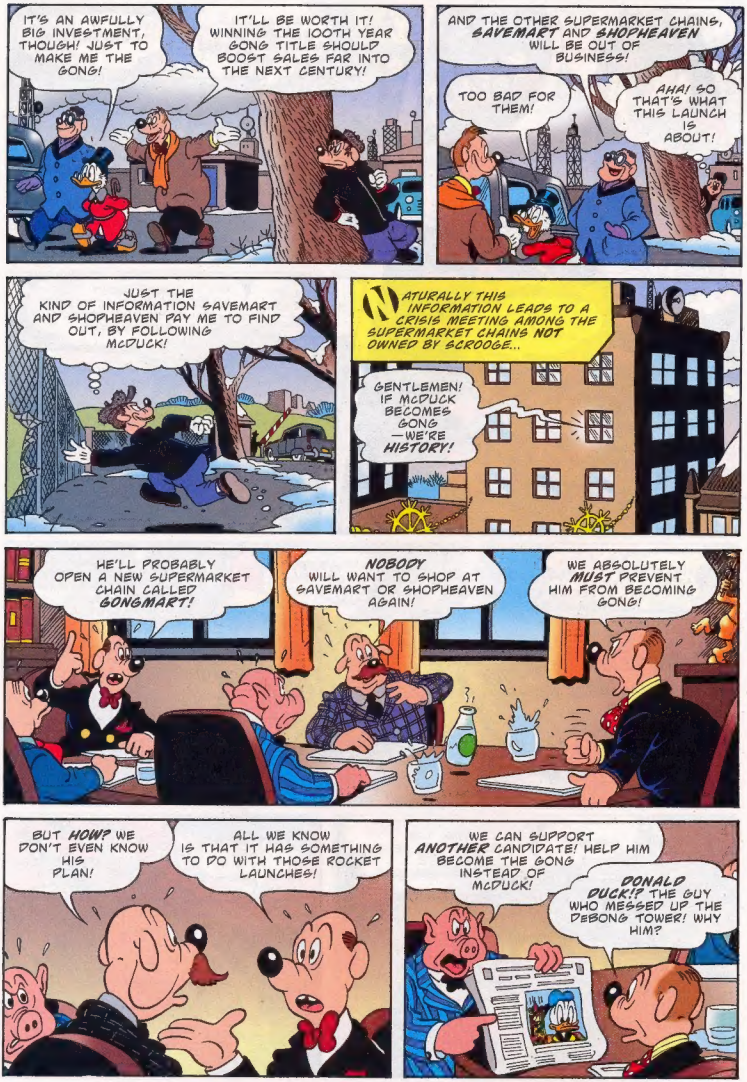

SO WHAT DO YOU TWO MASTERMINDS SUGGEST? THAT I INSTEAD SELL HIGH QUALITY PRODUCTS AT LOW PRICES?!
HA HA! VERY FUNNY, SIR! OF COURSE NOT!
WE HAVE SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT IN MIND!


IT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE IN ONE WEEK!
WE'LL MAKE YOU GONG OF THE YEAR!
WAKK!
YOU MEAN THE POOR FOOL THE MAYOR CHOOSES EACH NEW YEAR'S EVE TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR?
IT MAY BE A POOR FOOL TO YOU, SIR...
...BUT EVERY YEAR THE NEW GONG ENJOYS TREMENDOUS POPULARITY WITH THE REST OF DUCKBURG!
IMAGINE WHAT IT WOULD DO FOR YOUR SALES IF YOU BECAME THE GONG OF 2005!
HMM...
ESPECIALLY SINCE NEW YEAR 2004-2005 IS THE 100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRADITION OF ELECTING GONGS!
BUT HOW DO I BECOME THE GONG? USUALLY THE MAYOR PICKS SOMEBODY WHO DID SOMETHING GREAT FOR DUCKBURG DURING THE YEAR!
THERE IS STILL TIME TO DO SOMETHING FOR DUCKBURG!
AND WE HAVE THE GREATEST PLAN!
PROBABLY THE MOST EXPENSIVE TOO! ›SHIVER!‹
SCROOGE GONG 2005
TOP SECRET
LET'S LEAVE SCROOGE FOR A WHILE AND TURN TO ANOTHER CITIZEN OF DUCKBURG...
PLEASE CHANGE THE CHANNEL, DAISY!
WAIT, I WANT TO WATCH THIS, DONALD!
HERE I AM AT THE TOWN SQUARE IN FRONT OF THE DEBONG TOWER WITH THE WORLD FAMOUS DUCKBURG BELLS!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO WATCH THE MAYOR?
SSH! I WANT TO SEE IF HE'LL TALK ABOUT THE GONG OF 2005!


EXACTLY 100 YEARS AGO BELLOW DEBONG BUILT THIS TOWER AND STARTED THE GREAT TRADITION OF ELECTING GONGS!
HERE IT COMES...
WITH ONLY A WEEK TO GO, THE EXCITEMENT IS INTOLERABLE! WHO WILL GET THE INCREDIBLE HONOR OF BECOMING THE 100TH GONG AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR?
WHICH OUTSTANDING CITIZEN WILL EARN THAT PRIVILEGE?
→BURP!←
NOT ME, BUDDY! COUNT ON THAT!
DONALD, THAT WAS DISGUSTING!
SORRY, BUT I ALWAYS BURP WHEN I DRINK FRIZZLEPOPS!
NOT THAT, MORON! YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF THE GONG-OF-THE-YEAR TRADITION!
UH-OH! TROUBLE!
THE GONG IS SOMEONE WHO THINKS OF OTHERS BEFORE HIMSELF! I WISH YOU WERE MORE LIKE THAT!
BUT I AM! ER, SOMETIMES!
WELL, THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM BECOMING THE GONG OF THE YEAR! IN FACT YOU'D BETTER, OR I'LL FIND ANOTHER BOYFRIEND!
DAISY...BE REASONABLE!
GOOD-BYE! MAYBE FOREVER!
AAAARGH!

WHAT A "WONDERFUL" EVENING! HOW IN THE WORLD AM I GOING TO BECOME THE GONG?!
TELL US ABOUT THE DEBONG TOWER, MAYOR!
BELLOW DEBONG WAS A BRILLIANT ARCHITECT AND THE DEBONG TOWER IS HIS MASTERPIECE!
IT'S ALL ABOUT THAT GRAY, OLD TOWER AT THE TOWN SQUARE!
SUPPOSE I SPICED IT UP A BIT!? MADE IT MORE ALIVE!
YOU HAVE TEARS IN YOUR EYES, MAYOR!
I CAN'T HELP IT! SNIFF!: THE 100TH YEAR OF THE DEBONG TOWER... IT'S ALL TOO EMOTIONAL...
THE DEBONG TOWER MAY BE GREAT, BUT DONALD DUCK WILL MAKE IT GREATISSIMO!
HARDLY ANYONE OUT AT THIS HOUR AND IN THIS COLD!
GOOD! SO I CAN WORK IN PEACE!
MORNING COMES...
NOW IF THIS WON'T MAKE ME GONG OF THE YEAR...
LOOK WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DEBONG TOWER!!
GASP!!

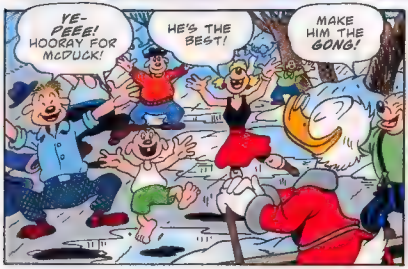
SOMEBODY SMEARED GRAFFITI ALL OVER THE TOWER!
IT'S A SCANDAL!
IT'S NOT GRAFFITI, YOU NITWITS! IT'S ART!
BUT...
VANDALIZING THE DEBONG TOWER!! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?
I IMPROVED IT!
SHOULD WE ARREST HIM?
NAAH! SEND HIM HOME! HAVE SOMEBODY RE-PAINT THE TOWER AND SEND HIM THE BILL!
IT'S THE SAME EVERY YEAR! PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING TO BECOME THE GONG!
CHIEF
--AND DON'T YOU FORGET IT!
THE NEXT MORNING...
HA HA! LOOKS LIKE MY SILLY NEPHEW IS OUT TO INCREASE MY CHANCES!
DeRANGED DUCK DeFACES DeBONG
THEY DON'T NEED TO BE INCREASED! YOUR VICTORY IS CERTAIN!
WHAT YOU WILL DO FOR PEOPLE THIS NEW YEAR'S EVE IS UNSURPASSED IN HISTORY!
SO WE WILL MAKE IT ON TIME?
YES, THE ROCKETS ARE READY FOR LAUNCHING!
HERE WE GO THEN!
ROOOARR!

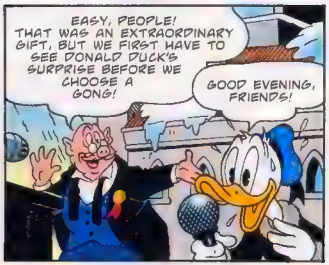

IT'S AN AWFULLY BIG INVESTMENT, THOUGH! JUST TO MAKE ME THE GONG!
IT'LL BE WORTH IT! WINNING THE 100TH YEAR GONG TITLE SHOULD BOOST SALES FAR INTO THE NEXT CENTURY!
AND THE OTHER SUPERMARKET CHAINS, SAVEMART AND SHOPHEAVEN WILL BE OUT OF BUSINESS!
TOO BAD FOR THEM!
AHA! SO THAT'S WHAT THIS LAUNCH IS ABOUT!
JUST THE KIND OF INFORMATION SAVEMART AND SHOPHEAVEN PAY ME TO FIND OUT, BY FOLLOWING McDUCK!
NATURALLY THIS INFORMATION LEADS TO A CRISIS MEETING AMONG THE SUPERMARKET CHAINS NOT OWNED BY SCROOGE...
GENTLEMEN! IF McDUCK BECOMES GONG — WE'RE HISTORY!
HE'LL PROBABLY OPEN A NEW SUPERMARKET CHAIN CALLED GONGMART!
NOBODY WILL WANT TO SHOP AT SAVEMART OR SHOPHEAVEN AGAIN!
WE ABSOLUTELY MUST PREVENT HIM FROM BECOMING GONG!
BUT HOW? WE DON'T EVEN KNOW HIS PLAN!
ALL WE KNOW IS THAT IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE ROCKET LAUNCHES!
WE CAN SUPPORT ANOTHER CANDIDATE! HELP HIM BECOME THE GONG INSTEAD OF McDUCK!
DONALD DUCK!? THE GUY WHO MESSED UP THE DEBONG TOWER! WHY HIM?

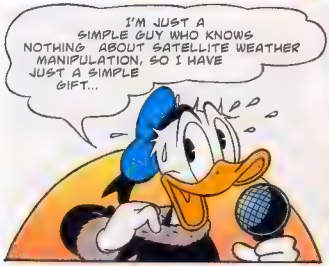
NOT EVERYBODY DISAPPROVED OF WHAT HE DID TO THE TOWER! A LOT OF PEOPLE LIKED IT, ESPECIALLY YOUNG PEOPLE!
HM, 'THE PEOPLE'S CHAMPION'! IT'S A GOOD CHOICE! HOW DO WE SUPPORT HIM?
I'M GETTING TO THAT! WHAT'S CURRENTLY OUR MOST POPULAR PRODUCT AMONG FAMILIES?
IT'D HAVE TO BE BELL-O! A DESSERT POWDER! JUST ADD WATER AND YOU HAVE A READY GELATIN DESSERT!
SHORTLY AFTER...
HONK!
QUACK!
WHAT?
THERE'S A DELIVERY FOR YOU! I NEED YOU TO TO SIGN HERE!
HOLY MACARONI!!!
THERE'S A LETTER TOO!
INSTANT BELL-O
Dear Mr. Duck! We are friends that would like you to become the Gong of the Year! Give these packages of Instant Bell-O to children and families on New Year's Eve and the title should be yours!
Signed, Santa's Helpers
SIGNED, 'SANTA'S HELPERS'! SO I HAVE SOME SUPPORT OUT THERE! I JUST MIGHT BECOME THE GONG AFTER ALL! JUST WAIT AND SEE, DAISY!

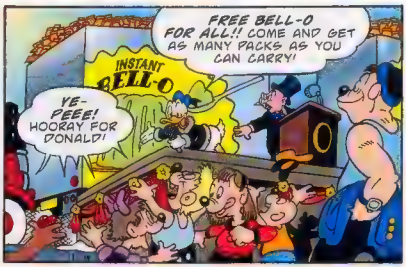
FINALLY COMES NEW YEAR'S EVE...
BELOVED CITIZENS OF DUCKBURG! IT'S A DELIGHT TO SEE SO MANY OF YOU HERE AT THE TOWN SQUARE FOR THIS HISTORIC NIGHT...
THE BIG QUESTION TONIGHT IS... WHO WILL BE THE 100TH GONG AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR FROM OUR PRECIOUS DEBONG TOWER?
TWO CANDIDATES HAVE WAITED TILL THE LAST MOMENT TO REVEAL THEIR SURPRISES! FIRST SCROOGE McDUCK!
GOOD EVENING TO YOU ALL AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!
DO I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU?! YOU BETCHA! HOLD ON TO YOUR GALOSHES NOW! AND DON'T FORGET WHO BROUGHT YOU THIS!
CLICK!
AS SCROOGE PRESSES THE BUTTON ON THE REMOTE CONTROL, A RADIO SIGNAL IS SENT TO THE NEWLY ARRIVED SATELLITES IN SPACE...
...CAUSING THEM TO UNFOLD SOME LARGE MIRRORS WHICH POSITION THEMSELVES IN SUCH A WAY...
...THAT THEY DIRECT THE SUNLIGHT FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE EARTH, STRAIGHT DOWN ON...

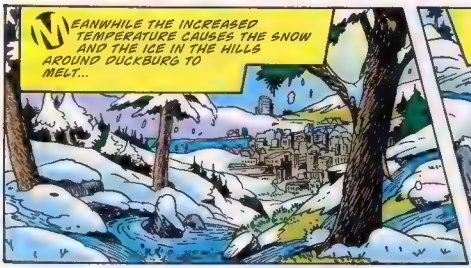
...DUCKBURG! TURNING THE COLD NEW YEAR'S EVE INTO A BRIGHT SUMMER DAY!
WHO NEEDS THESE COATS?
WHOA! SUDDENLY IT'S HOT!
IT'S A MIRACLE!

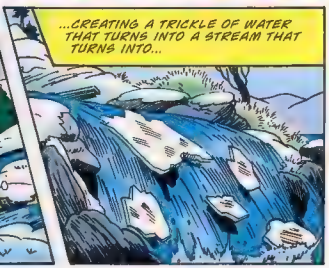

YE-EEE! HOORAY FOR McDUCK!
HE'S THE BEST!
MAKE HIM THE GONG!


EASY, PEOPLE! THAT WAS AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT, BUT WE FIRST HAVE TO SEE DONALD DUCK'S SURPRISE BEFORE WE CHOOSE A GONG!
GOOD EVENING, FRIENDS!


I'M JUST A SIMPLE GUY WHO KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT SATELLITE WEATHER MANIPULATION, SO I HAVE JUST A SIMPLE GIFT...

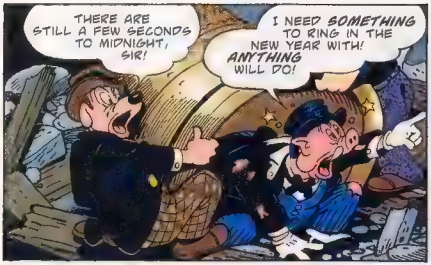

FREE BELL-O FOR ALL.!! COME AND GET AS MANY PACKS AS YOU CAN CARRY!
INSTANT BELL-O
YE-EEE! HOORAY FOR DONALD!

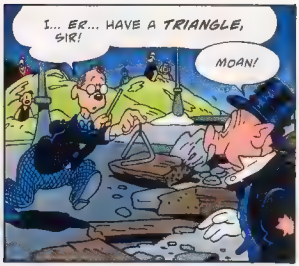

MEANWHILE THE INCREASED TEMPERATURE CAUSES THE SNOW AND THE ICE IN THE HILLS AROUND DUCKBURG TO MELT...

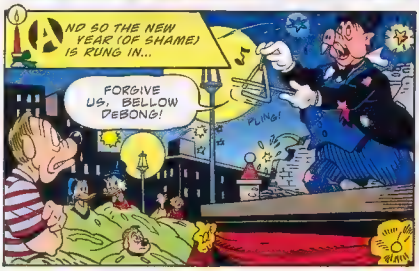

...CREATING A TRICKLE OF WATER THAT TURNS INTO A STREAM THAT TURNS INTO...

...A FLOOD!
ROOAR!
HEELP! WE'RE ALL GOING TO DROWN!
GASP! AND LOOK AT THAT CHUNK OF ICE! IT'S GOING TO CRUSH US!
SMACK!
PHEW! SAVED BY THE DEBONG TOWER!
AMAZING! IT SURVIVED THE IMPACT!
IT'S NOT OVER YET...
SPLOSH!
AAAAAARGH!
BLUB! SPLUT!
SPLORBS! BLOB!
ACK! BLUB!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE WATER?
SIZZLE!
IT'S... IT'S TURNING INTO GELATIN!
GASP! WITH POWDER FROM THOUSANDS OF BELL-O PACKS!

I'M STUCK! MAYBE I CAN EAT MYSELF FREE!
ME TOO!
SOMEBODY GET ME OUT OF THIS STUFF!
GASP!- THE WHOLE CITY TURNED INTO A GIANT DESSERT!
GAG!- NO, I'M FULL ALREADY!
I..I'D BETTER TURN THIS THING OFF BEFORE IT CAUSES MORE DISASTER! I CAN BARELY MOVE MY FINGERS!
CLICK!
BRR! IT'S COLD AGAIN!
AND I HAVE NOTHING ON EXCEPT MY BOXERS!
CALL THE FIRE DEPARTMENT! THEY NEED TO HELP PEOPLE FREE BEFORE THE WHOLE CITY CATCHES A COLD!
THERE WILL BE NO GONG THIS YEAR! I WILL RING IN THE NEW YEAR MYSELF!
IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT, SIR!
WHEN PEOPLE HEAR THE FAMILIAR SOUND OF THE THUNDERING DEBONG BELLS IT WILL CALM THINGS DOWN A BIT!
THUD!
GUFF!
TH-THE TOWER COLLAPSED!
IT WAS SO SHAKEN FROM THAT ICE BLOCK THAT IT ONLY TOOK ONE PULL ON THE ROPE TO BRING IT DOWN!
CRASH!
MAYOR!


THERE ARE STILL A FEW SECONDS TO MIDNIGHT, SIR!
I NEED SOMETHING TO RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH! ANYTHING WILL DO!

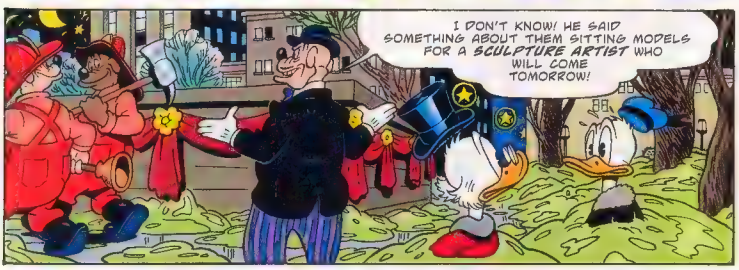

I... ER... HAVE A TRIANGLE, SIR!
MOAN!


AND SO THE NEW YEAR (OF SHAME) IS RUNG IN...
FORGIVE US, BELLOW DEBONG!
PLING!

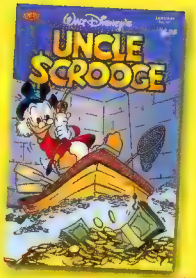
I WILL MAKE SURE FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL NEVER FORGET WHO WAS BEHIND THIS!
GASP!

LATER...
I THINK THIS WAS THE LAST ONE!
NO, THERE ARE TWO MORE OVER HERE!
PLOP!

NOT THEM! THERE ARE SPECIAL ORDERS FROM THE MAYOR TO LEAVE THEM AS THEY ARE!
WHY?


I DON'T KNOW! HE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THEM SITTING MODELS FOR A SCULPTURE ARTIST WHO WILL COME TOMORROW!

THE DUCK AND THE MOUSE SENT TO YOUR HOUSE!



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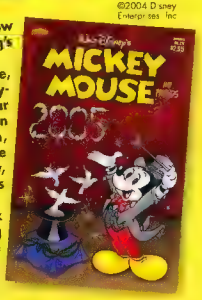

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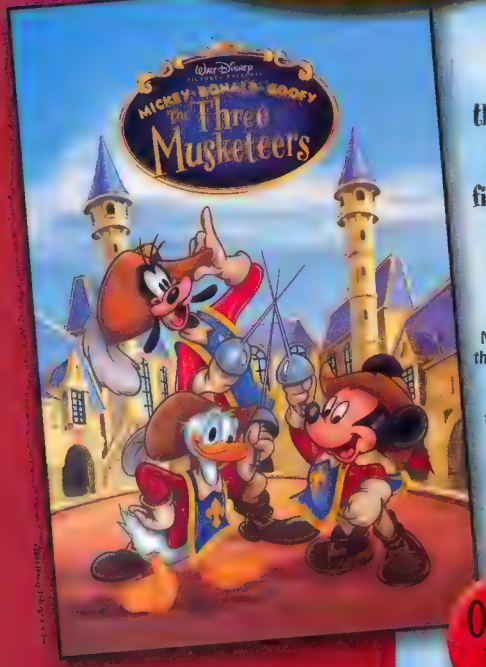

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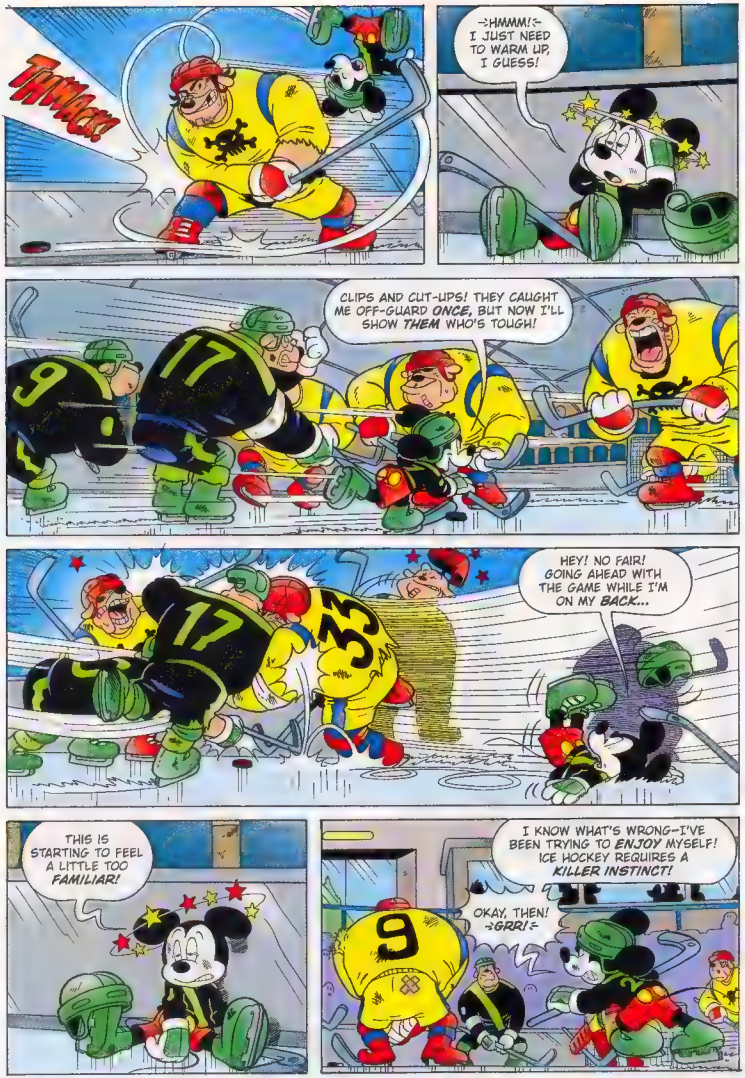
LOOK—FIGURE SKATERS! THEY'RE LIKE BIRDS IN THE AIR, ONLY WITH SKATES ON THE ICE! COME ON, LET ME TEACH YOU!
SPINS AND SPLATS! IT LOOKS SO...GIRLY!
D 2000-001
NOW THAT LOOKS LIKE FUN!
OF COURSE IT'S FUN, SILLY—
HEY! WAIT A MINUTE! THE FIGURE SKATING RINK IS THIS WAY!
YEAH! BUT THE ICE HOCKEY RINK IS THIS WAY, AND THAT'S FOR ME! DO YOU THINK THEY'D LET ME PLAY?
:-)HMPH!:-
SO—YOU PREFER BRUTALITY TO GRACE AND SKILL!
20

JUDGING FROM THEIR CUTS AND BRUISES, THESE FELLAS HAVE GOBS OF GRACE AND SKILL! ALTHOUGH I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT SCARED-LOOKING GUY...
-UH-OH!- IT'S MINE!
30
-EEEP!-
MAN, I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR HOCKEY! MAYBE I SHOULD TRY ANOTHER ICE SPORT!
HEY! HOW ABOUT FIGURE SKATING?
FIGURE SKATING?
YEAH! IT'S LIKE BEING A BIRD IN THE AIR, ONLY YOU'RE A SKATER ON THE ICE!
I'M FRED, AND FIGURE SKATING SOUNDS LIKE THE KIND OF SCARE I CAN HANDLE! I'D TRY IT WITH YOU IF YOUR FRIEND COULD TAKE MY PLACE ON THE TEAM FOR A BIT!
I'M MINNIE, AND I LIKE YOUR ENTHUSIASM!
WELL, WHAT LUCK FOR YOU, MICKEY... MICKEY?!
I'M READY! LET 'ER RIP!
LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT, NEW KID!

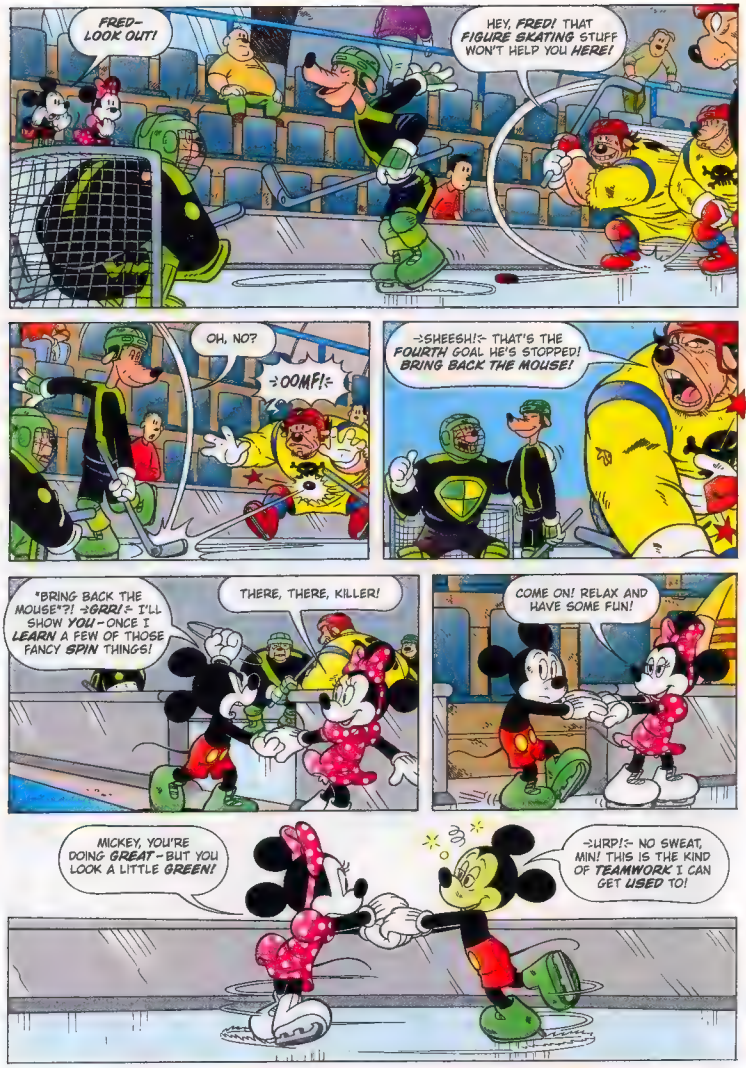

THWACK!
-:HMMM!:-
I JUST NEED TO WARM UP, I GUESS!
CLIPS AND CUT-UPS! THEY CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD ONCE, BUT NOW I'LL SHOW THEM WHO'S TOUGH!
HEY! NO FAIR! GOING AHEAD WITH THE GAME WHILE I'M ON MY BACK...
THIS IS STARTING TO FEEL A LITTLE TOO FAMILIAR!
I KNOW WHAT'S WRONG--I'VE BEEN TRYING TO ENJOY MYSELF! ICE HOCKEY REQUIRES A KILLER INSTINCT!
OKAY, THEN! -:GRR!:-

RELAX, FRED! WHAT'S THE POINT IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO ENJOY YOURSELF?!
SAY, YOU'RE RIGHT! SKATING'S EASIER WHEN NO ONE'S TRYING TO MOW YOU DOWN!
SOON, WITH A LITTLE PRACTICE–
LOOK! I'M A BIRD! A ONE-FOOTED BIRD ON SKATES!
-:HA!:- YOU'RE A NATURAL! ALL YOU NEEDED WAS A LITTLE SELF-CONFIDENCE!
MICKEY PROGRESSES, TOO! SORT OF–
-:HA!:- I'VE STAYED ON MY FEET FOR TEN WHOLE MINUTES! NOW I'M GETTING SOMEWHERE!
THE PUCK! HERE'S MY BIG CHANCE! I'M GOING FOR THE GOAL!
NO ONE'S NEAR ME! I'M GOING TO MAKE IT! I'M GOING TO SCORE!

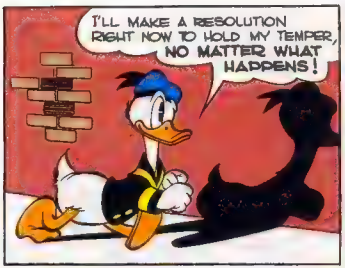
~UH-OH!~
I SPOKE TOO SOON! LOOKS MORE LIKE I'M GOING TO DIE!
COVER ME!
YOU GOT IT!
WE SCORE!
11
SAY! WHERE'S OUR NEW GUY- MICKEY?
BACK THERE, CHILLING OUT!
LOOKS LIKE WE WERE A LITTLE ROUGH ON HIM!
YOU WANT TO CALL IT QUITS, MICKEY?
ME? QUIT? NEVER!
THIS TIME I'M SCORING FOR SURE!...JUST AS SOON AS THE RINK STOPS SPINNING!

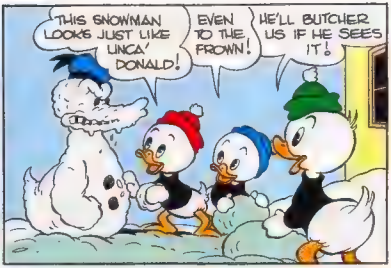
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY TIMES I GET KNOCKED DOWN! THIS IS STILL MORE FUN THAN THAT FIGURE SKATING STUFF!
-HA!- TOO FAST FOR YOU!
-ULP!- LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE MOVING IN FOR THE BIG CRUNCH!
I'D BETTER MOVE OUT WITH A SMALL SCRUNCH!
-UNGH!-
KRUNCH!
FANTASTIC! FROM HERE ON IN, IT'S CLEAR SAILING!
-AWP!-

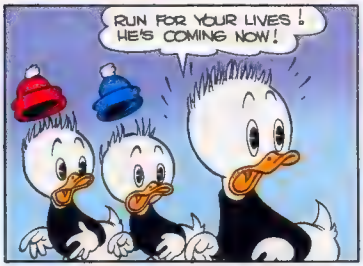
HEY! MINNIE AND FRED ARE HAVING A GREAT TIME! THEY'VE GOT SOME NERVE...
AW, WHO AM I KIDDING? I'M JUST MIFFED ABOUT BLOWING IT WITH ICE HOCKEY!
HEY, MINNIE! HOW ABOUT GIVING ME ANOTHER SHOT AT THE FIGURE SKATING THING?
WELL...OKAY, I GUESS...
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE! YOU CAN'T JUST DUCK OUT ON US, MOUSE! YOU NEED TO FINISH THE GAME! FRED ALREADY SAID HE WON'T PLAY!
UM...UH...SEE, I KINDA LIKE MY BODY ALL IN ONE PIECE!
FRED! THESE ARE YOUR BUDDIES! YOU CAN'T LET THEM DOWN! FOR THE SAKE OF THE TEAM! FOR YOUR SAKE! FOR MY SAKE!
:-)HEH!:- YOU DON'T HAVE TO SOUND SO DESPERATE! I CAN'T WAIT TO TRY OUT MY CONFIDENCE AND MY NEW MOVES!

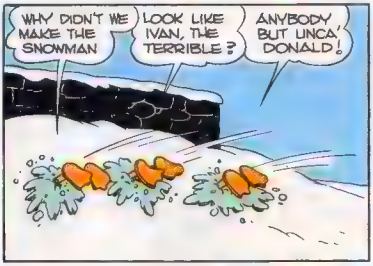

FRED– LOOK OUT!
HEY, FRED! THAT FIGURE SKATING STUFF WON'T HELP YOU HERE!
OH, NO?
=OOMF!=
=SHEESH!= THAT'S THE FOURTH GOAL HE'S STOPPED! BRING BACK THE MOUSE!
"BRING BACK THE MOUSE"?! =GRR!= I'LL SHOW YOU – ONCE I LEARN A FEW OF THOSE FANCY SPIN THINGS!
THERE, THERE, KILLER!
COME ON! RELAX AND HAVE SOME FUN!
MICKEY, YOU'RE DOING GREAT – BUT YOU LOOK A LITTLE GREEN!
=HRP!= NO SWEAT, MIN! THIS IS THE KIND OF TEAMWORK I CAN GET USED TO!

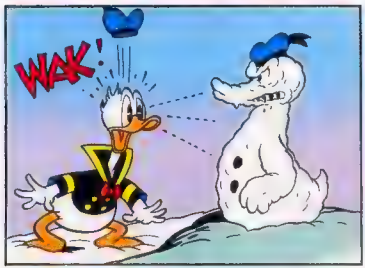
WALT DISNEY presents
DONALD DUCK
HAVE YOU MADE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION, DONALD?
NAW!
WHY, DONALD, EVERYONE SHOULD MAKE A RESOLUTION!
WHY?
BECAUSE IT BUILDS WILL POWER! YOU NEED MORE WILL POWER! YOUR MIND CHANGES ITS TUNE EVERY FIVE MINUTES!
OH SURE, DAISY! I'VE GOT A HEAD LIKE A JUKE BOX!
YOU SHOULD RESOLVE TO CORRECT YOUR WORST FAULT —
WHADDYA MEAN— MY WORST FAULT? I HAVEN'T ANY FAULTS, WOMAN!
YOU HAVE A MESS OF FAULTS —AND FLYING OFF THE HANDLE IS YOUR WORST FAULT!
SO I GET MAD EASILY? WHY, YOU WILD-EYED WILDCAT ——
I'M A WILDCAT, AM I? TAKE THAT!.. AND THAT!.. HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST THAT I LOSE MY TEMPER!!!
SPLAT
DAISY IS RIGHT! I DO LOSE MY TEMPER TOO EASILY! I'LL HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!

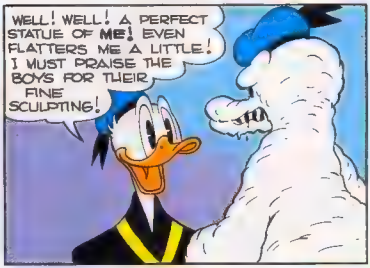

I'LL MAKE A RESOLUTION RIGHT NOW TO HOLD MY TEMPER, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

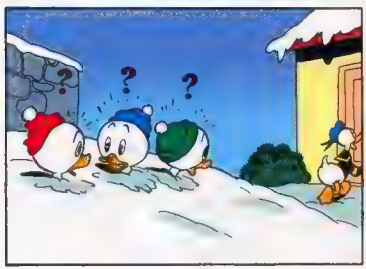

THIS SNOWMAN LOOKS JUST LIKE UNCA' DONALD!
EVEN TO THE FROWN!
HE'LL BUTCHER US IF HE SEES IT!


RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! HE'S COMING NOW!


WHY DIDN'T WE MAKE THE SNOWMAN
LOOK LIKE IVAN, THE TERRIBLE?
ANYBODY BUT UNCA' DONALD!


WAK!


WELL! WELL! A PERFECT STATUE OF ME! EVEN FLATTERS ME A LITTLE! I MUST PRAISE THE BOYS FOR THEIR FINE SCULPTING!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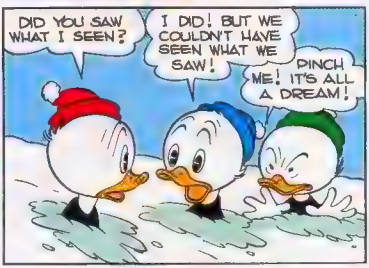
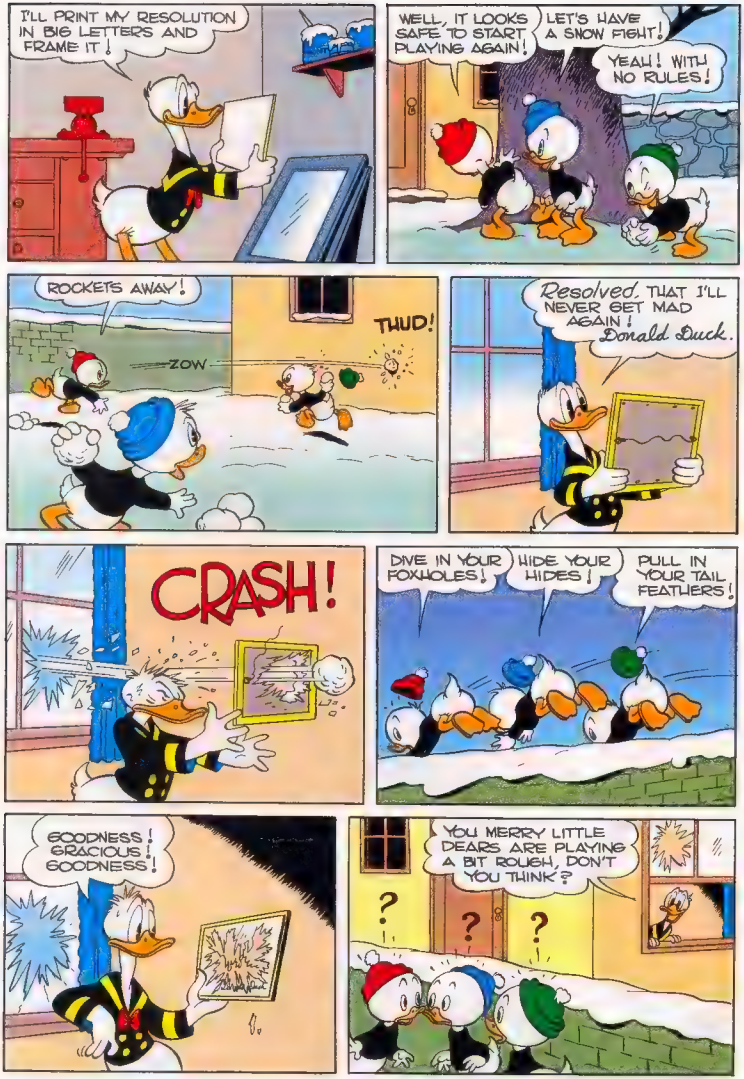

DID YOU SAW WHAT I SEEN?
I DID! BUT WE COULDN'T HAVE SEEN WHAT WE SAW!
PINCH ME! IT'S ALL A DREAM!


I'LL PRINT MY RESOLUTION IN BIG LETTERS AND FRAME IT!
WELL, IT LOOKS SAFE TO START PLAYING AGAIN!
LET'S HAVE A SNOW FIGHT!
YEAH! WITH NO RULES!
ROCKETS AWAY!
ZOW
THUD!
Resolved. THAT I'LL NEVER GET MAD AGAIN! Donald Duck.
CRASH!
DIVE IN YOUR FOXHOLES!
HIDE YOUR HIDES!
PULL IN YOUR TAIL FEATHERS!
GOODNESS! GRACIOUS! GOODNESS!
YOU MERRY LITTLE DEARS ARE PLAYING A BIT ROUGH, DON'T YOU THINK?
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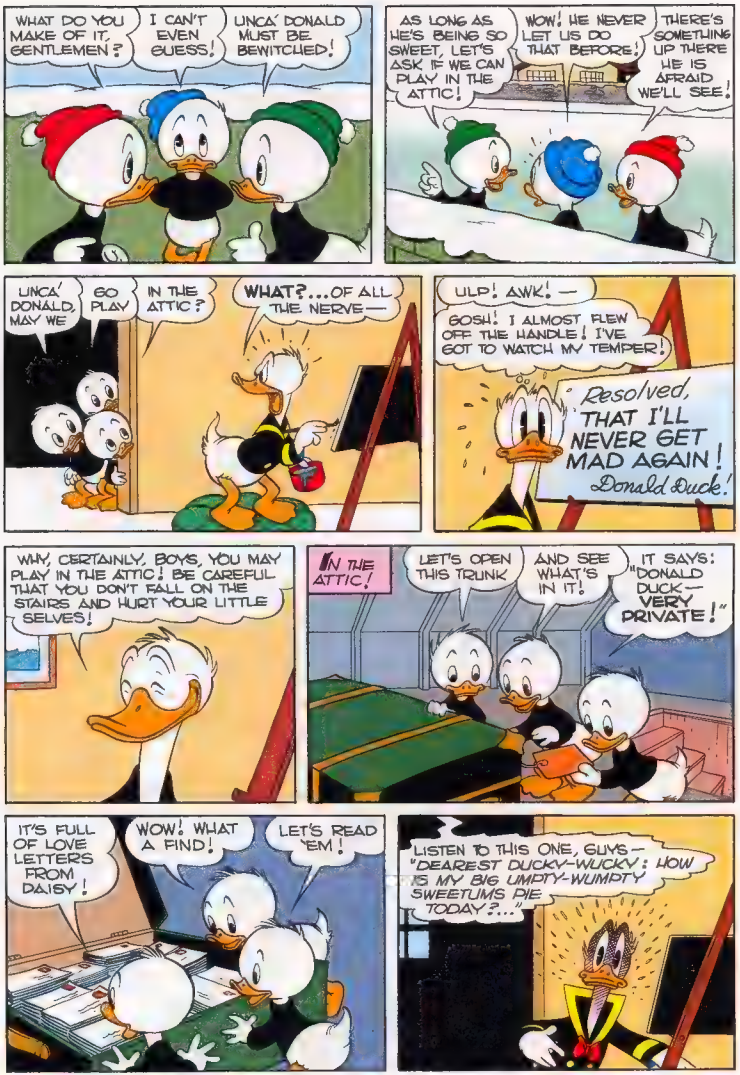
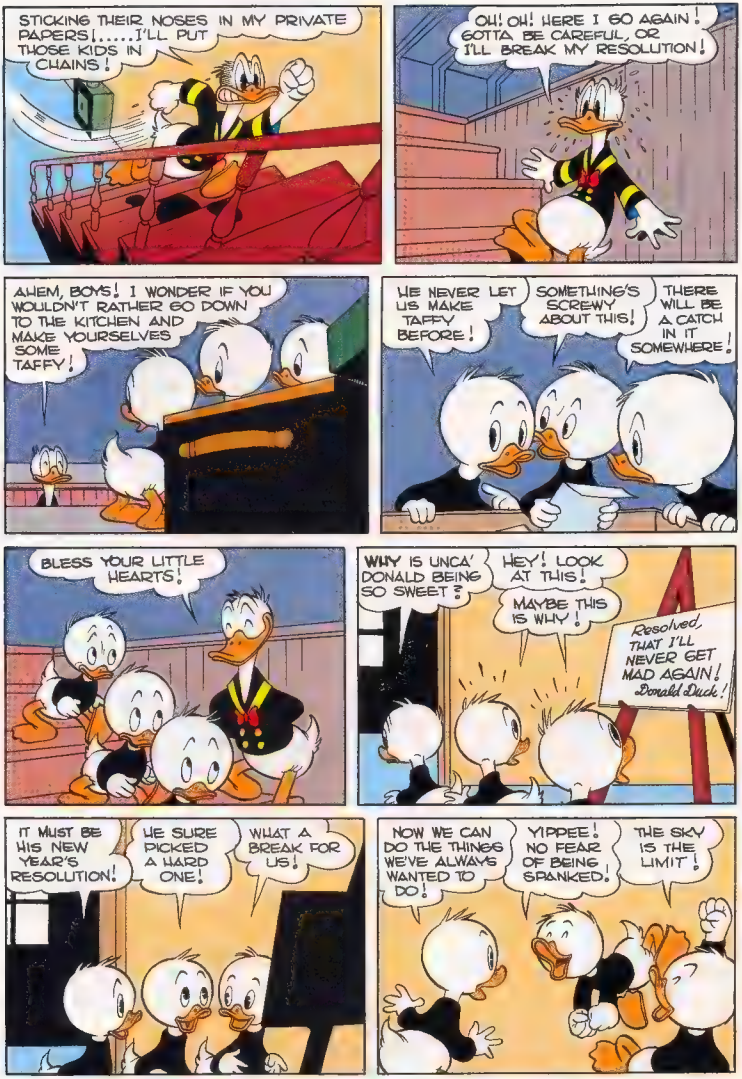
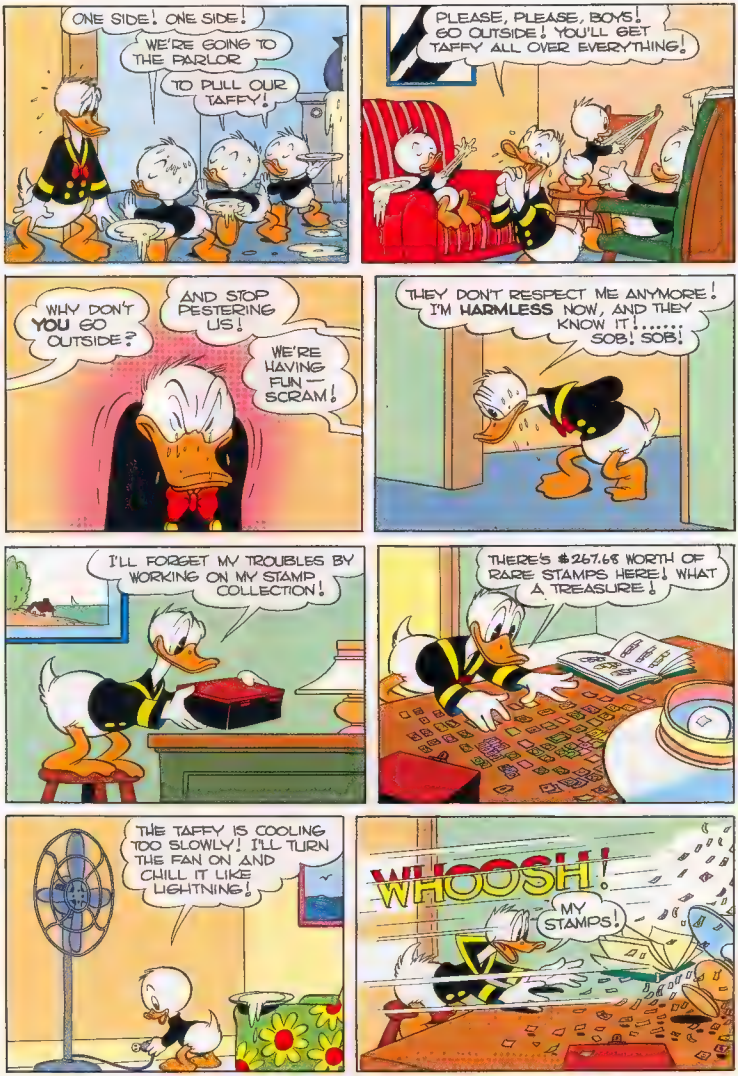
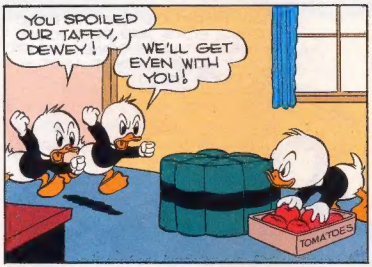

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, GENTLEMEN?
I CAN'T EVEN GUESS!
UNCA' DONALD MUST BE BEWITCHED!
AS LONG AS HE'S BEING SO SWEET, LET'S ASK IF WE CAN PLAY IN THE ATTIC!
WOW! HE NEVER LET US DO THAT BEFORE!
THERE'S SOMETHING UP THERE HE IS AFRAID WE'LL SEE!
UNCA' DONALD, MAY WE
GO PLAY
IN THE ATTIC?
WHAT?...OF ALL THE NERVE—
ULP! AWK! —
GOSH! I ALMOST FLEW OFF THE HANDLE! I'VE GOT TO WATCH MY TEMPER!
Resolved, THAT I'LL NEVER GET MAD AGAIN! Donald Duck!
WHY, CERTAINLY, BOYS, YOU MAY PLAY IN THE ATTIC! BE CAREFUL THAT YOU DON'T FALL ON THE STAIRS AND HURT YOUR LITTLE SELVES!
IN THE ATTIC!
LET'S OPEN THIS TRUNK
AND SEE WHAT'S IN IT!
IT SAYS: "DONALD DUCK— VERY PRIVATE!"
IT'S FULL OF LOVE LETTERS FROM DAISY!
WOW! WHAT A FIND!
LET'S READ 'EM!
LISTEN TO THIS ONE, GUYS— "DEAREST DUCKY-WUCKY: HOW IS MY BIG UMPTY-WUMPTY SWEETUMS PIE TODAY?..."

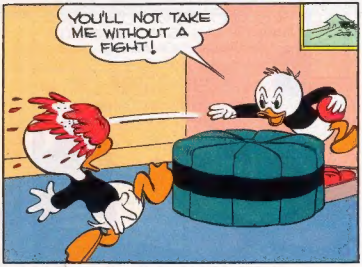

STICKING THEIR NOSES IN MY PRIVATE PAPERS!.....I'LL PUT THOSE KIDS IN CHAINS!
OH! OH! HERE I GO AGAIN! GOTTA BE CAREFUL, OR I'LL BREAK MY RESOLUTION!
AHEM, BOYS! I WONDER IF YOU WOULDN'T RATHER GO DOWN TO THE KITCHEN AND MAKE YOURSELVES SOME TAFFY!
HE NEVER LET US MAKE TAFFY BEFORE!
SOMETHING'S SCREWY ABOUT THIS!
THERE WILL BE A CATCH IN IT SOMEWHERE!
BLESS YOUR LITTLE HEARTS!
WHY IS UNCA' DONALD BEING SO SWEET?
HEY! LOOK AT THIS!
MAYBE THIS IS WHY!
Resolved, THAT I'LL NEVER GET MAD AGAIN! Donald Duck!
IT MUST BE HIS NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION!
HE SURE PICKED A HARD ONE!
WHAT A BREAK FOR US!
NOW WE CAN DO THE THINGS WE'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO DO!
YIPPEE! NO FEAR OF BEING SPANKED!
THE SKY IS THE LIMIT!

SHALL WE MAKE THE TAFFY
IN THIS KETTLE?
NAW! HERE'S A BIGGER ONE!
WOW! IT'S GONNA TAKE A LOT OF SUGAR
TO FILL THIS KETTLE!
XXX SUGAR
WHAT DO WE CARE? UNCA' DONALD'S GOT FORTY POUNDS OF IT HIDDEN IN THE GARAGE!
LOOKOUT! THE TAFFY'S BOILING OVER ON THE FLOOR!
LET IT BOIL! UNCA' DONALD WON'T GET MAD!
AND I WON'T GET MAD! I WON'T! I WON'T!
I GET THE FIRST PLATE OF TAFFY!
OVER MY DEAD BODY!
I GET FIRST PLATE, OR YOU GUYS GET THIS SPOON OVER YOUR HEADS!
CRACK!
SWAT! BAM! POW!
SPLAT!
CLATTER!
TUT! TUT! BOYS! HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A QUARTER TO GO TO THE MOVIES?
PHOOEY! YOU SAID WE COULD MAKE TAFFY!
AND WE
ARE GOING TO!

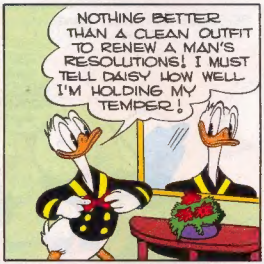

ONE SIDE! ONE SIDE!
WE'RE GOING TO THE PARLOR
TO PULL OUR TAFFY!
PLEASE, PLEASE, BOYS! GO OUTSIDE! YOU'LL GET TAFFY ALL OVER EVERYTHING!
WHY DON'T YOU GO OUTSIDE?
AND STOP PESTERING US!
WE'RE HAVING FUN — SCRAM!
THEY DON'T RESPECT ME ANYMORE! I'M HARMLESS NOW, AND THEY KNOW IT!..... SOB! SOB!
I'LL FORGET MY TROUBLES BY WORKING ON MY STAMP COLLECTION!
THERE'S $267.65 WORTH OF RARE STAMPS HERE! WHAT A TREASURE!
THE TAFFY IS COOLING TOO SLOWLY! I'LL TURN THE FAN ON AND CHILL IT LIKE LIGHTNING!
WHOOSH!
MY STAMPS!

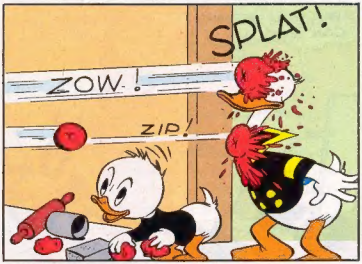
SOMEWHAT LATER!
I CAN'T LET LITTLE TROUBLES LIKE THIS BOTHER ME IF I'M GOING TO DEVELOP MY WILL POWER! GOTTA HOLD MY TEMPER, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!
THE KIDS HAVE TURNED OFF THE FAN! I'LL SPREAD MY STAMPS AGAIN AND SEE WHAT I'VE SALVAGED!
COME BACK WITH THAT KETTLE!
WE WANT ANOTHER PLATE OF TAFFY!
PHOOEY ON YOU HOGGISH HOGS! I'M TAKING THE WHOLE WORKS!
I SAID STOP!
SPLOK!
MY STAMPS!
BUT I WON'T GET MAD! I WON'T! I WON'T! I WON'T!

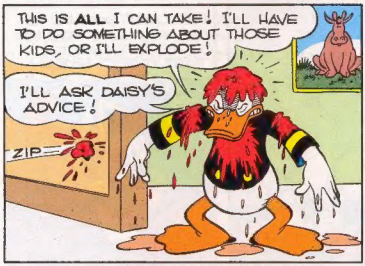


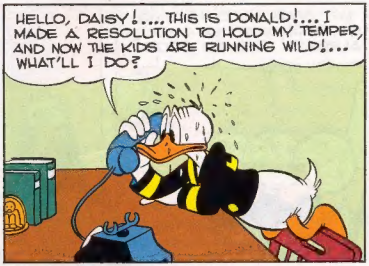


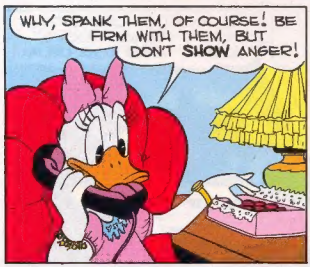
DONALD CLEANS UP AND COMES OUT OF HIS ROOM FEELING FINE AGAIN!

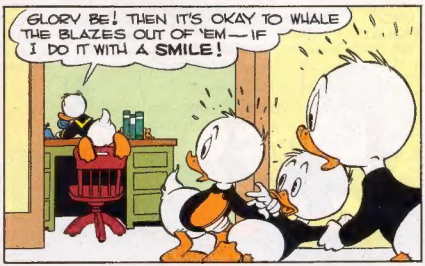












YOO HOO, BOYS! COME AND HAVE A PLEASANT CHAT WITH OL' UNCA' DONALD!
WHERE DID THOSE LITTLE SCOUNDRELS GO?
AH! THERE YOU ARE!.... BEND OVER, BOYS, AND GRIT YOUR TEETH! THIS IS GOING TO HURT YOU MUCH WORSE THAN IT DOES ME!
BUT YOU CAN'T SPANK US, UNCA' DONALD!
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE WE, TOO, HAVE MADE A RESOLUTION!
RESOLVED, THAT WE'LL BE GOOD BOYS FROM NOW ON!
Huey, Louie, Dewey!
WHY SPANK US TO MAKE US BE GOOD WHEN WE HAVE ALREADY TURNED GOOD?
TA-TA TA-TA!
YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME! YOU CAN'T ROB ME OF MY VENGEANCE!..... THAT IS TOO MUCH!
UNCA' DONALD, YOU'RE MAD!
REMEMBER YOUR RESOLUTION!
I REMEMBER IT ONLY TOO WELL! THAT'S WHAT I'M MAD ABOUT!
ALL QUIET ON OAK STREET, EXCEPT DONALD DUCK'S HOUSE—WHICH IS AS USUAL!
SQUAWK
WAK!
BAM!
THUMP!

It's been said that the front cover no longer "sells the comic book" the way it used to. In large part, this is probably true. My buying is more influenced by affection for the character(s), habit, and a long collected run, over any specific cover image. However, Marco Rota's invitation to read *Donald Duck and Friends* 319 would seem to be an exception to this new rule.

Dauntless Don, Duck-Wonder of the Diamond, battling a battery of baseballs before a basic blue backdrop is simply… um, beautiful! The image is simple, funny, and effective enough to cause a bit more joyous lingering than the average cover. I don't know what team our beleaguered bush leaguer is affiliated with, but, with that prodigious pack of projectiles hurtling head-ward, I'd say that he'll become a "Dodger" before long!

Who says sports stories and comics can't mix successfully?

—Joe Torcivia
via email

DDF 319 was really good. I think this is your best *Donald Duck* issue for a while. I've been getting tired recently of the science fiction and supernatural stories in this title and in *Mickey Mouse and Friends*. As per usual these days, two out of three stories in this issue have a sci-fi/inventor theme, but I'll give them a pass, because they're logical and interesting.

I was worried at first that "The Human Touch" would be another story about how new technology isn't as good as honest old-fashioned stuff, like Mickey's "Dictator From The Future" story a few months back. That theme rings false with me, because I know how much my own life has improved thanks to new inventions like email and DVDs. So when "The Human Touch" started with a conflict between Uncle Scrooge's broken old typewriter and Donald's suggestion of a new computer, I thought we were going to see Donald learn that it's better to use broken old typewriters after all.

Luckily, the story was a lot smarter than that. Before I knew it, Donald and the boys were trapped in Microcity! The city of the future! Which actually turned out to be a very funny comment on the idea that one giant company can determine the future of everything. I liked seeing the monopoly of "Microfloppy" turn into a prison, even for the head of the company. As Donald discovers, if one entity tries to control too much of how people live, work and play, then it becomes stifling and unfair. A utopia based on everyone following a perfect plan can never work, because real people can't be predicted or controlled. That's what Donald represents here. Humans are fallible and unpredictable, and that's what protects us from being manipulated and controlled. What a great story!

"Here's Looking Through You" was another neat story from Stefan Petrucha—and a pretty scary one, this time. Seeing Mickey gradually lose control of his own eyesight was a weird enough plotline, but the artwork really sold the story's most eerie qualities. On the first page, when Mickey gets splashed in the eyes with the chemicals, the panel borders are rectangular and normal. But as Mickey's eyesight worsens, the borders start shifting—they're crooked on pages two and three, and elements start bleeding into the gutters, and through other panels. By pages four and five, the layout is completely out of control, with huge close-up Mickey faces practically busting through the page. On the two-page spread, there are three extreme Mickey close-ups, all of him sweating profusely, with weird horrible visions across his dilated pupils. That's a disturbing sight—so you're even more creeped out by the horrible research scientists, who are willing to sacrifice Mickey's eyesight for their own gain. It's neat to see Xavi really push the limits of the typical Disney comics artwork, in order to serve the tone of the story.

Plus, this issue had a funny Marco Rota cover—one of the best Gemstone covers I've seen. Thanks for a great issue!

—Danny Horn
via email

Wow! I'm on the same page as the infamous duo Torcivia and Horn. I've made the big leagues.

Thanks for putting Pat McGreal's letter in your editorial column. I'm always looking for new things to read and listen to and I was pleased to find out about the "Adventures of Jack Flanders." I've never heard of the series before, but I'll be sure to look into it, as I enjoy the Shambor stories.

"Here's Looking Through You" was my favorite story in *DDF* 319. Here's Mickey in the same situation so many comic book heros used to find themselves in—dumped with chemicals and given a strange power. And rather than sewing up a costume and heading out to fight crime, he plays some jokes on his friends and bumps into walls. But when he falls into the clutches of misguided scientists, he out-thinks them all. That's our Mickey. Keep up the great work. Can't wait to see the next issue.

—Penny Kenny
via email

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